

Message Text

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AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 0454

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BR AO

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES ANGOLA WITH SENATOR JAVITS

REF: BRASILIA 0415

1. IN TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA IN BRASILIA JANUARY 7, SENATOR JAVITS EXPLAINED SENATE'S RECENT VOTE PROHIBITING FURTHER US COVERT ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA FACTIONS, WHILE EXPRESSING HIS CONCERN OVER OTHER FORMS OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN ANGOLA.

2. SILVEIRA RESPONDED BY REVIEWING IN LENGTHY DETAIL BACKGROUND OF BRAZIL'S DECISION TO RECOGNIZE MPLA REGIME, CLAIMING

A) THAT BRAZIL INFORMED MAJOR WESTERN POWERS, INCLUDING THE US, BEFOREHAND OF ITS INTENTION AND RECEIVED NO OBJECTIONS; B)

THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN IN AGOLA AFTER INDEPENDENCE BRAZILIAN

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ESTABLISHED DURING PRE-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD

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WITH ASSENT OF ALL THREE FACTIONS, SINCE ONCE BRAZIL LEFT

IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO RETURN; C) THAT NETO'S INVITATION TO GEISEL TO INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR BRAZIL TO TEMPORIZE ON RECOGNITION DECISION.

3. SILVEIRA MADE POINT THAT BRAZIL'S POLICY IN SOUTH ATLANTIC BASED ON AWARENESS THAT IT HAS NO STRONG MILITARY FORCES AND THAT IT MUST THEREFORE WORK FOR SECURITY OF SOUTH ATLANTIC THROUGH POLITICAL MEANS. RECOGNITION OF MPLA WAS CASE IN POINT IN THAT IT HELPED GIVE ANGOLA CONTACT WITH WEST AS ALTERNATIVE TO SOVIET PRESENCE. HE SAW MPLA AS MARXIST, BUT IN AN AFRICAN WAY. MPLA IS GRATEFUL FOR FOREIGN SUPPORT, BUT THE POLITICAL VALUE OF THIS GRATITUDE CAN BE BALANCED BY OTHER FORCES. SILVEIRA NOTED BRAZIL HAD BEEN ASSURED BY AGUSTINHO NETO THAT, REGARDLESS OF SOVIET ASSISTANCE, HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF ALLOWING FOREIGN BASES IN ANGOLA OR OF ACCEPTING MILITARY AND POLITICAL ALIGNMENTS.

4. REFERRING TO HIS KNOWLEDGE OF AFRICA, SILVEIRA WAS CONFIDENT THAT PROBLEM OF ANGOLA WOULD ULTIMATELY BE SOLVED BY ANGOLANS THEMSELVES, NOT BY OUTSIDERS. HE CONSIDERED IT DANGEROUS FOR BRAZIL TO GET INTO POSITION OF APPEARING TO SIDE WITH SOUTH AFRICA. HE CLAIMED THAT ANGOLAN FACTIONS THAT ACCEPT SUPPORT OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, SUCH AS ZAIRE, ARE THEREBY IMPEDED IN SECURING BROAD POPULAR SUPPORT. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE ASSERTED THAT NIGERIA AND ZAIRE HAVE BECOME FEARED AND SUSPECT AMONG MOST SMALLER AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

5. AT ONE POINT IN HIS EXPOSITION ON ANGOLA, SILVEIRA SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD SECRETARY (CONTEXT SUGGESTED IN PARIS) THAT, ALTHOUGH GOB WANTED TO BE COOPERATIVE AND HELPFUL IN SUPPORTING US POLICIES, IT COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW US INTO "MAKING MISTAKES." SILVEIRA ADDED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SAME PRINCIPLES WOULD APPLY FOR THE USG WITH RESPECT TO BRAZILIAN POLICIES AND ACTIONS IN, FOR EXAMPLE, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY.

6. ALTHOUGH SENATOR JAVITS, AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL GOLBERY, HAD LISTED ANGOLA AMONG THE SUBJECTS HE WISHED TO DISCUSS, TIME RAN OUT BEFORE THE QUESTION WAS REACHED.

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